

Amendment to the Specification

Please make of record the following Abstract:

The invention relates to a hydrophilic coating for surfaces containing one or several polysilazanes and an ionic reagent or mixtures of ionic reagents. The polysilazane is, in particular, a polysilazane of the formula  $-(\text{SiR}'\text{R}''-\text{NR}''')_n-$  (1), wherein  $\text{R}'$ ,  $\text{R}''$ ,  $\text{R}'''$  can be identical or different and are either hydrogen or organic or metalorganic radicals,  $n$  is measured in such a manner that the polysilazane has a numerical average molecular weight ranging from 150 to 150 000 g/mol. In a preferred embodiment, the polysilazane is perhydropolysilazane ( $\text{R}' = \text{R}'' = \text{R}''' = \text{H}$ ). The ionic reagent is, preferably, a salt of a carboxylic acid, in particular of a hydroxycarboxylic acid, or a cationic or anionic silane, or an oligomer or polymer. The invention also relates to a method for the production of the above-mentioned hydrophilic coatings.